

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/659,665

Examiner

Ismael Negron

Applicant(s)

SHUNIAK, LAWRENCE

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Continued Examination and Amendment filed April 11, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed on April 11, 2006 has been entered. No claim has been amended. Claims 1-15 have been cancelled. Claims 16-26 have been added. Claims 16-26 are still pending in this application, with claims 16 and 23 being independent.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Evelyn A. Defillo on June 5, 2006.

5. The application has been amended as follows:

- CLAIM 16 An illumination device comprising:
a substantially uniformly shaped housing including at least two detachable segment bodies, each segment body having **a shape substantially identical to the other segment body, further having:**
 - at least one light source located inside the segment body,
 - a power source to power the at least one light source;
 - at least one interconnection attachment point for interconnecting with the attachment point of an adjacent segment body;at least two of the plurality of segment bodies being selectively attached together by the interconnection attachment points, each of the segment bodies being shaped to complement one another to form the housing when interconnected.
- CLAIM 23 A method for illuminating a dark area comprising:
 - a) providing an illumination device comprising:
 - a substantially uniformly shaped housing including at least two detachable segment bodies, each segment body

having **a shape substantially identical to the other segment body, further having:**

at least one light source located inside the segment body,

a power source to power the at least one light source;

at least one interconnection attachment point for interconnecting with the attachment point of an adjacent segment body;

at least two of the plurality of segment bodies being selectively attached together by the interconnection attachment points, each of the segment bodies being shaped to complement one another to form the housing when interconnected;

- b) disconnecting each segment body from the adjacent segment body; and
- c) placing each segment body around the dark area.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 16-26 are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant teaches illumination devices composed of a plurality of detachable housings, each housing being shaped substantially identically to the other housings, and configured to complement one another to form the housing when interconnected. Each housing includes at least one light source, a power source, and at least one interconnection attachment point for interconnecting with respective interconnecting points of the other housing to form the illumination device.

Thiel (U.S. Pat. 1,875,956) discloses an illumination device including a plurality of separate housing, each housing including a light source, a power source, and at least one interconnection attachment point for interconnecting with respective interconnecting points of the other housings to form the illumination device. However, the cited reference fail to individually disclose, or suggest when combined, all the housing having a substantially identical shape to complement one another to form the illumination device.

No prior art was found teaching individually, or suggesting in combination, all of the features of the applicants' invention, specifically of a plurality of detachable housings, each housing being shaped substantially identically to the other housings,

and configured to complement one another when interconnected, in combination with the claimed illumination device.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

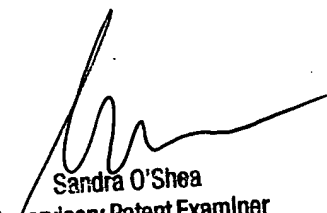
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Negrón whose telephone number is (571) 272-2376. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra L. O'Shea, can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The facsimile machine number for the Art Group is (571) 273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

Art Unit: 2875

more information about the PAIR system, go to <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) toll-free at 866-217-9197.



Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800



Ismael Negrón
Examiner
AU 2875